SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what is the rate of interest charged on these loans? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is five per cent; and there is also a penalty clause for default, which goes up to seven and a half per cent."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what is the rate at which Government borrow? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is between 2¾ per cent to 3¼ per cent."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do not Government consider that to charge five per cent interest on loans given to industries, which they want to help, is exorbitantly high and it deserves to be reviewed, when Government themselves borrow only at 2¾ per cent or 3 per cent or 3¼ per cent? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" In spite of the heavy rate of interest, as per the hon. Member's allegation, there are applications received from industries for help and we are trying to help. The question of reducing the rate of interest has not been taken up. I shall have that question examined."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether there is any proposal to amend the State Aid to Industries Act as recommended by the Industrial Planning Committee? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Legislation is being got ready."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" I see State aid is given for the manufacture of pens. Are fountain pens being manufactured? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes."

Supply of iron and steel for agricultural purposes.

[a] *51 Q.—SRI N. SANKARA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) what quantities of iron and steel for agricultural purposes were supplied to each district in the Province; and

(b) whether the Government are aware that no 'Guntika' blades and wooden plough shares are supplied to the ryots in Kurnool district?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA DEDDI :—" (a) A statement [b] showing the quantities of iron and steel (standard and non-standard) supplied for agricultural purposes to each district in the Province for the period from 1st January 1947 to 31st May 1948 is placed on the table of the House.

a Starred question from the list of 21st August 1948.
b Printed as Appendix II on page 98 infra.

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"(b) Yes, Sir. As there were no requisitions for Guntika blades and wooden plough shares, no supplies were made. Arrangements have since been made by the Agricultural Department to supply the above materials."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether Government have arranged for fabrication of agricultural implements before they are placed for sale?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Only certain kinds of agricultural instruments are fabricated."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether 'Guntika' is one of them?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"When the question came up before me I informed the Agriculture Department of it, and I believe they are being fabricated by the Department now and supplied to the people."

Gandikotta Project.

* 54 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the scope of the Gandikotta Project was;

(*b*) whether investigation in respect of it has been completed;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what the estimates of cost, quantity of water available, the area irrigated and other particulars are;

(*d*) whether the scope of the project has been altered since the investigation was completed, and if so, in what particulars;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that experts who inspected the site of the dam were completely satisfied and did not foresee any complications;

(*f*) whether gaugings of river flow are being taken now;

(*g*) whether at no time in the past gaugings were not taken to necessitate taking gaugings now;

(*h*) whether the delay in undertaking this scheme which had received a high priority in Post-war Irrigation Schemes is due to the proposed Krishna-Pennar Project;

(*i*) whether the Government at any time decided to undertake the Gandikotta Project but for the appearance of the Krishna-Pennar Project on the scene;

(*j*) what are the comparative benefits of the Krishna-Pennar Project as against those of the Gandikotta Project; and

(*k*) whether in view of the benefits from the Gandikotta Project and the difficulties facing the Krishna-Pennar Project, the Government have considered it desirable to undertake the Gandikotta Project immediately?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"(*a*) Presumably the hon. Member refers to the scope of the project as